There has been a shortfall of 6.06 per cent in achievement to target in upper-primary classes. The target inprary classes has been overachieved;

(c) The main reasons for shortfall in enrolment at upper-primary stage are:

(i) socio-economic factors;

(ii) inadequately provided schools and inefficient teaching in schools;

(iii) perception of the curriculum not being related to local needs;

(iv) indifference of parents towards education of children particularly girls;

(v) indifference of particularly first generation learners leading to non-utilisation of educational facility where available.

(d) The National Policy on Education, 1986 emphasises, (i) universal enrolment and universal retention of children upto 14 years of age, and (ii) a substantial improvement in the quality of education. The Policy resolves that the problem of children dropping out of schools will receive the highest priority and the Government will adopt an any of meticulously formulated strategies based on micro-planning, and applied at the grass-roots level all over the country, to ensure retention of children in schools. Apart from the new initiatives and strengthening of existing arrangements by the State Governments, as primarily they look after school education, the Government of India is taking some new initiatives including 'Operation Blackboard' to make available essential facilities in all Primary schools, strengthening and reorganisation of Non-formal education, setting of DIETs and srengthening of Teacher Training arrangements and implementation of Core Curriculum. All these measures together are expected to lead to desired increase in enrolment and reduction in dropout rates.

Introduction of speed post service

399. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce the Speed Post Service from Bhilwara and other districts in Rajasthan to New Delhi; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) There is no proposal to introuce Speed Post Service from Bhilwara and other districts in Rajasthan to New Delhi.

(b) The principal requirements for the introduction of Speed Post Service is the availability of air services with suitable arrival|departure timings vis-a-vis despatch and receipt of mails to connect all the Speed Post centres in the country. The proposed service from Bhilwara and other districts in Rajasthan (except Jaipur where the service is already in existence) does not fullfil this requirement.

Pay phones for National and International subscriber

400. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the number of pay-phones with facility for national and international subscriber dialled calls by accepting coins or value-inscribed magnetic cards to be introduced by Government during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): About 70 coin-operated STD pay-phones are working in the country at present. About 300 more such pay phones are expected to be installed during 1988-89.